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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 192

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GROUP OF 77 REJECTS U.S. SEA LAW AMENDMENTS

OW171254 Beijing XINHUA in English 17 Mar 82

[Text] United Nations, March 16 (XINHUA) -- The United States' amendments to the draft sea-law convention would call into question the ownership of sea-bed resources by all mankind. A leading official of the "Group of 77" developing nations said here today.

Alvaro de Soto (Peru), chairman of the "Group of 77" at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, told a news conference that the U.S. amendments were aimed at allowing freedom of exploitation forever. The "Group of 77" could not countenance such a provision, as it would undermine the General Assembly's 1970 declaration of principles governing the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

The United States was seeking to reduce the international sea-bed authority to a mere regulatory or licensing agency which would have no control over activities carried out by states or operators sponsored by states, he said.

Another aim of the U.S. amendments was to delete a provision in the draft that makes the assembly the policy-making organ of the sea-bed authority. Under the U.S. amendments, he went on, provisions for the mandatory transfer of technology by industrialized countries to the authority and developing countries would simply be deleted.

De Soto declared that the "Group of 77" would not accept to negotiate on the basis of the proposals as contained in the U.S. amendments. He reaffirmed the group's decision that a convention on the law of the sea should be concluded in April 1982 and ready for signature in September.

CSO: 5200/2059

SOVIET DELEGATE REJECTS U.S. DEMANDS

LD181402 Moscow TASS in English 18 Mar 82

[Text] New York, 18 Mar, TASS -- The socialist states have supported the position of the developing countries who opposed United States attempts at wrecking the adoption of the international convention on the law of the sea.

At the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, taking place here, the United States asked for a radical revision of the draft convention, which had been worked out in some eight years and which Washington had endorsed at one time. The United States is pressing for free access to mineral resources of the sea bottom in international regions to its monopolies. The "Group of 77", representing over 120 developing countries, emphatically rejected United States demands. Its representatives said that the American amendments were unacceptable and could not serve as a topic for discussion.

Speaking on behalf of the group of East European socialist states, Semen Kozyrev, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, expressed support for the decision of the developing countries to reject the American demands.

An analysis of the United States proposals clearly shows, he said, that they are aimed at infringing the interests of other countries, at gaining unilateral advantages for the United States and a narrow group of its allies. Thus, the American proposals on the rules of adopting decisions in the international leading body for resources of the sea bottom give full control to the United States and some of its allies over the solution of major questions. Meanwhile, all other countries are utterly deprived of exerting any influence in this field.

Only one conclusion can be drawn, the head of the Soviet delegation said: The American "green book" of amendments is aimed against reaching understandings on all questions of the sea bottom regimen and does not contain elements of compromise.

Its purpose is obvious: To deadlock the conference and, possibly, to wreck it, paving the way to unilateral actions in the international region of the sea bottom. That is why it cannot be a topic of talks. We fully subscribe to the opinion of the "Group of 77". We also agree with the opinion of the "Group of 77" that the conference should concentrate attention on outstanding questions and adopt a convention on the basis of the existing draft by April 30th. If necessary this should be done through voting, even if the United States and some other countries are not ready for this.

CSO: 5200/2059

NORWEGIAN, USSR MINISTERS CITED ON FISHING TALKS

PM251617 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 13 Mar 82 p 8

[Report by Ola Hesstvedt: "Soviet Union Willing to Agree to Total Ban on Cod Fishing"]

[Text] Svolvaer, 12 Mar--"Energetic steps are necessary to preserve cod stocks, steps which in our opinion must cover all types of catch, and not just trawlers. The Soviet Union is willing to agree to a total ban on cod fishing in the Barents Sea until the cod stocks are replenished," Soviet Fisheries Minister Vladimir Kamentsev said at a press conference in Svolvaer. Norwegian Fisheries Minister Thor Listau expressed his disagreement at this. "A total stop would devastate our coast," he said, making a plea for the implementation of a number of less drastic restrictions.

The press conference at the end of Kamentsev's 5-day official visit to Norway was dominated by two questions--an increase in trawl net mesh size and the growing numbers of Greenland seals in Oestisen [apparent place name; location unknown]. The Soviet fisheries minister stressed that a larger mesh size would create great difficulties for Russian fishermen in Murmansk and Arkhangelsk.

"I am concerned that cod of breeding age is fished so heavily. Norway has twice increased its quotas in the course of a short period," Kamentsev said, expressing the view that too much attention is being paid to the size of mesh in trawler nets only. He took the view that measures to save cod fishing must cover all fishing tackle and stressed that the Soviet Union has gradually enlarged its mesh size, most recently last year.

"I have informed Kamentsev that Norway could unilaterally enlarge mesh size from 125 to 135 mm, and that this could happen soon," Fisheries Minister Thor Listau said. He added that such a measure would only be possible once the government had discussed the matter and that the new mesh size should perhaps apply throughout the whole area for cod fishing, including Russian waters and the Spitzbergen zone. "I am aware of the disagreement between Norway and the Soviet Union on this point," he added.

There is also disagreement about the killing of seals on the Russian side--seals which have invaded eastern Finnmark. Norway wants more seals to be shot

so that more fish can be caught, and views with concern hints that the Soviet Union wants a further buildup in the number of seals.

The background to this question is the Norwegian demand to the Norwegian-Soviet seal catch commission to increase the seal quota from 60,000 animals in 1981 to 120,000 in 1982, a demand rejected by the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union would not go further than 75,000 animals. Kamentsev pointed out that in the years after the war the annual seal catch in Oestisen was in excess of 100,000 seals. This led to such a drastic reduction in seal numbers that the Soviet Union introduced a ban on seal slaughter.

"Seal hunting in this area has centuries-old traditions and is very important in itself. The seal is also an important link in the ecological chain in the sea. Some researchers take the view that the seals actually take very little fish," the Soviet fisheries minister said. Kamentsev and Listau have agreed that the two countries' experts will meet in May to discuss the disagreements on seal numbers in Oestisen.

"Our researchers take the view that the seals eat 1.5 million tons of fish annually. We do not know exactly what they eat most of, but we definitely think they are greedy," Listau said. "Norway would like to establish exactly what the seal's diet is and is therefore now planning to carry out its own research project in this field."

Both fisheries ministers stressed that there have not been any negotiations during the present visit, merely talks. Both countries are agreed that there must be negotiations on further measures which could help build up cod stocks again.

Kamentsev is now ending his visit to Norway and has invited his Norwegian counterpart for a return visit to the Soviet Union at a time which best suits Listau. The Norwegian fisheries minister has accepted the invitation and told AFTENPOSTEN that he expects that the visit could take place early in the fall, and that he is especially interested in visiting the Murmansk district.

CSO: 5200/2061

SOVIETS DETAIN, FINE SWEDISH FISHING BOAT IN BALTIC

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 6 Mar 82 p 5

Article by Ingemar Lofgren: "First Swedish Violation"

Text "It is clumsy to end up in the Russian fishing zone. Especially if the weather is good and if you navigate correctly." These are the words of Ingemar Sorensen at the National Board of Fisheries in describing the "Veno's" violation of Soviet fishing waters.

The Board of Fisheries has long tried to advise the fishermen on how to navigate in the Baltic Sea in order to avoid similar incidents.

"Swedish fishermen are generally afraid to enter the Russian fishing zone. This is why we have indicated with a broad margin on the nautical chart how they should navigate in order not to end up there," says Ingemar Sorensen, head of a department at the National Board of Fisheries in Gothenburg.

"As far as I know this is the first time Swedish fishermen have been caught in Russian waters," Sorensen says but stresses that he still does not know the reason for "Veno's" violation last Saturday.

Fishing in the Baltic is surrounded by a number of regulations and restrictions. Ingemar Sorensen at the Board of Fisheries is one of those who decide what these should look like and how they should be enforced. This takes place in September each year in negotiations with the other Baltic nations of Finland, the Soviet Union, Poland, the GDR and the two EC nations of the FRG and Denmark.

These negotiations always take place in Warsaw.

Based on studies and recommendations by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, ICES, it is determined how large the total annual catch in the Baltic may be and how much each nation may land for itself.

But these allocated quotas are not always sufficient. That is why the various nations also negotiate with each other about trading the fishing rights.

Licenses

According to the most recent decision from last fall, Soviet fishermen may, for example, land 9,000 tons of herring plus other fish caught at the same time in the Swedish fishing zone during 1982. In order to land this catch they received permission from Sweden to enter with 34 fishing boats and 10 mother ships.

In exchange the Swedish fishermen are permitted to catch 1,200 tons of cod and 105 tons of salmon in the Soviet fishing zone. For that purpose a total of 38 Swedish fishing boats received permission from the Soviet authorities to enter their territory.

Which Swedish vessels will receive the license to enter Russian territory is determined in Sweden by the Board of Fisheries and the Swedish Federation of Fisheries' Unions. When they have selected the 38 boats, they transmit the data concerning the skipper, radio signal, size and other identifying marks to authorities in the Soviet Union.

Radio Call

A short while later confirmation arrives from the Soviet Union for permission to fish in Soviet waters, and these licenses are always to be on board the boats. On the other hand, these licenses do not confer the right to enter the territorial waters of the nations.

When the boats from the various countries are about to enter foreign fishing zones, they must always call the respective country's coast guard in order to give their position and identifying marks. The authorities can then check if that boat is one that has a license and whether anything remains of the fishing quota.

When the boats are about to leave the foreign zone, they must call the coast guard 2 hours before departure. The skipper must then report how much fish he caught and the authorities thus have 2 hours to check if that is true.

When Swedish boats are going to enter or leave a Russian fishing zone, the signal is sent via Radio Stockholm and Riga in Lithuania. In this manner both Sweden and the Soviet Union maintain constant control over the catch in the Baltic Sea.

"It has functioned well up to now, and we have had no trouble with the Russians. They have behaved very well," Ingemar Sorensen says.

Fishing Limit

But all is not completely calm over the Baltic Sea. It is not always so obvious where the boundaries run. For the last 5 years Sweden and the Soviet Union have been quarreling about where the fishing limit between the two countries should actually be.

Sweden's fishing limit in principle runs 8 nautical miles beyond the territorial limit, that is to say 12 nautical miles from the Swedish coast. (It is the

water between the territorial limit and the fishing limit which is called a fishing zone.)

Thus, Sweden believes that the fishing limit should run between Gotland and the Baltic states. But the Russians don't think so. Instead, they want the limit to run between Falster and the Baltic states. If the Soviet Union gets its way, its future fishing limit will be just east of Gotland. Today, the controversial area is considered a temporary no-man's-land, and the Soviet Union so far has not intervened against boats that are fishing there.

On the other hand, they, as well as all other nations, intervene against fishing boats which enter their fishing zones without a license. The fishing zones are governed by national legislation and each nation decides how violators of the law are to be punished.

Hence, the 61,000 crowns the crew of the "Veno" is forced to pay for illegal fishing is something figured out by the Russian authorities themselves.

"It is a large sum by our standards. We have had problems with the Poles, for example, but our fines were considerably lower. But on an international scale 61,000 isn't that much. Norwegians and Englishmen are also tough in these matters," Ingemar Sorensen says.

11949
CSO: 5200/2052

SWEDEN: GDR AIR CHART EAST BALTIc LIMIT USSR CLAIMS

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 4 May 82 p 3

[Article by Bo Engsell: "Where Does the Boundary Run? East German Aerial Chart Now Subject of Contention"]

First Malmö, Wednesday--The Swedish-Soviet dispute over where the boundary between Sweden and the Soviet Union should run in the Baltic Sea east of Gotland has flared up again.

This time it was triggered by the GDR travel agency, which at the large and well-attended motor show in Malmö distributed map books of the company's air routes in which the Baltic boundary between Sweden and the Soviet Union are marked according to Soviet claims, that is to say just outside Gotland!

"Extremely interesting information. The Foreign Ministry's legal department will have to study this," press spokesman Jonas Hojer at the Foreign Ministry says to DAGENS NYHETER.

The motor show in Malmö has been open for several days. Interflug's brochure has aroused indignation in some visitors. On Wednesday the matter was taken up by SYNDIKATEN DAGPIALET, where the border dispute was commented on. On Wednesday afternoon the Interflug map book with the "Soviet" boundary had disappeared from the GDR's plentiful assortment of brochures at the fair!

Boundary Dispute

However, this is by no means an aerial chart produced especially for Sweden. It is distributed all over the world, since it shows all of the GDR's air routes. And the way in which the GDR draws the boundary in the Baltic.

Sweden and the Soviet Union have long been quarreling about the drawing of the boundary, which has been discussed at several negotiations.

"When the delegations last met, we only agreed that one did not agree," says Jonas Hojer at the Foreign Ministry. The negotiations continue and have not been concluded.



It is this map which has stirred up the feelings. Here, the Swedish limit runs just outside Gotland, and this is the way the Soviet authorities want it.

Sweden maintains that the Baltic boundary should be drawn between Gotland and the Baltic coast. The Soviet Union does not want to count Gotland as Swedish mainland but wants to draw the border between the Swedish mainland and the Baltic states, meaning close to Gotland, as the East Germans have marked it on their aerial chart.

However, in the negotiations Sweden refers to the international legal practice, which is to say that Gotland is a big island with a large population and is therefore equivalent to a mainland and that the limit at sea should be drawn accordingly. During the negotiations with the Soviet Union Sweden presented a compromise proposal, but that was also rejected.

Oil Find

"Where to draw the limit is an extremely important question," underscored Jonas Hojer at the Foreign Ministry.

He then pointed out that it concerns the fishing limits, among other things, but that the question is also essential if it should turn out that there is oil on the bottom between Gotland and the Baltic coast. Oil has been found on Gotland, as is well known. Geologists do not consider it unlikely that there could be much, much more oil in the disputed waters beyond the island.

It is precisely the vagueness regarding the fishing limits which has caused concern among professional fishermen. Great uncertainty prevails. The issue has currently become even more important, after the Soviet Union boarded a fishing boat from Gotland in the area and brought it to a Soviet port, where the Swedish fishermen were sentenced to fines for fishing in Soviet waters.

11949
CSO: 5200/2051

TIMOR SEA OFFSHORE WELLS SHOW SUCCESSFUL GAS FLOWS

Tern No 2 Output

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 2 Feb 82 p 19

[Article by J.N. Pierce]

[Text]

A Timor Sea offshore natural gas field neglected for a decade because of its remoteness gained new significance yesterday with a strong gas flow of more than 417,000 cubic metres a day.

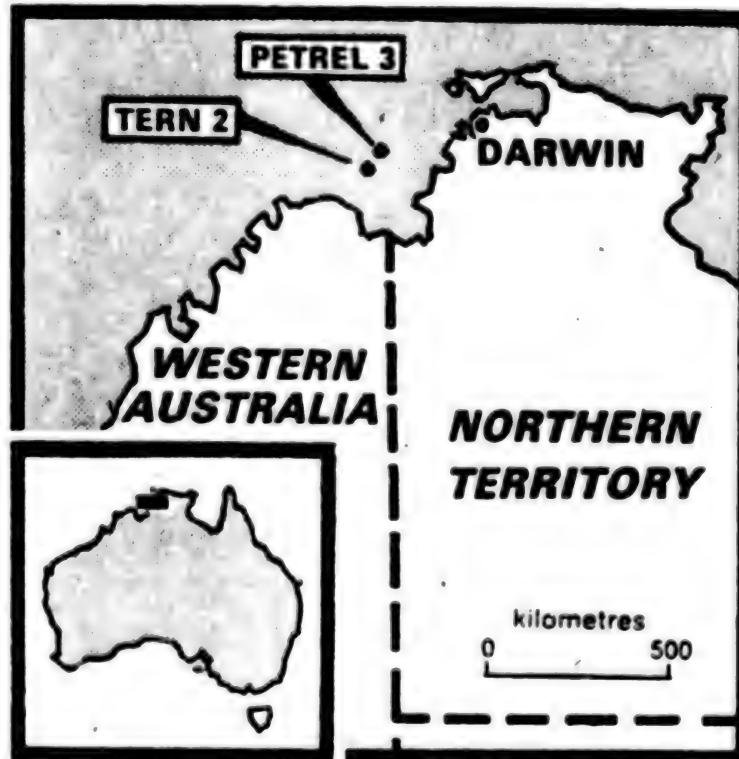
The flow — one of the largest ever recorded in Australia — was reported by the French-controlled Elf Aquitaine group from the Tern No 2 offshore exploration well drilled in the Bonaparte Basin about 360 kilometres south-west of Darwin.

Although still suffering from the disadvantage of remoteness, it strengthens the hopes of the Northern Territory administration to broaden Darwin's industrial base through gas generated electric power.

The Tern No 2 well is about 10 kilometres from the Tern No 1 well, which was drilled in 1971 on the northern part of the structure and flowed dry gas at a rate of 196,000 cubic metres a day over a net pay interval of about 60 metres.

It is also about 60 kilometres south-west of the Petrel structure which is also now being drilled after a 10-year pause.

The Petrel No 1 well ignited in August, 1969, after encountering a strong gas flow which could not be controlled. It burned for 15 months before being quelled after the drilling of a by-pass well, Petrel No 1A, through which sea water mud and acid were pumped.



Petrel No 2, drilled soon after, flowed gas at a rate of 252,000 cubic metres a day.

Petrel No 3, about 200 kilometres west of Darwin, is now being drilled by the Ocean Digger as an offshore exploration well by a consortium in which Aquitaine is also a member.

The renewed drilling program follows two seismic surveys run over the two structures in 1980. There was an enforced pause until the two drilling rigs — the Ocean Digger and the Glomar Grand Isle — became available.

The Tern No 2 well is just inside the West Australian sector of the Bonaparte Gulf in WA18P. Petrel No 3 is in the Northern Territory sector in NTP28.

The strong flow reported yesterday of 417,200 cubic metres — or

14.9 million cubic feet — was through a 14.3mm surface choke and at a wellhead pressure of 14,962 kPa.

An earlier test on Sunday flowed 201,600 cubic metres through a 9.5mm surface choke and at a wellhead pressure of 19,513 kPa.

The drill stem test was over the 24-metre interval between 2,545.5 metres and 2,569.5 metres.

The well will now be suspended for later use and results will be analysed before a decision is made on the location of a further well.

The companies participating in Tern No 2 are Aquitaine (with 40 per cent), Oil Investments Ltd (37.5 per cent) and Alliance Petroleum International Ltd, National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Ltd and Montauk Pty Ltd (each 7.5 per cent).

Petrel 3 Success

[Melbourne THE AGE in English 6 Feb 82 p 21]

[Excerpts] A promising oil and gas strike off Northern Australia yesterday gave another boost to Australia's prospects.

Petrel 3 in the Bonaparte Gulf flowed gas at the rate of 17 million cubic feet a day and oil at 180 barrels a day in its first test.

Another test, using a wider surface choke, produced a gas flow of 22.7 million cubic feet a day.

Offshore

Petrel 3 is about 150 kilometres from the coast in the northwestern corner of NTP28, a Northern Territory permit area which runs up against the State's offshore boundary with Western Australia.

The well is the third in the structure, but the first since about 1969, when Petrel 1 made headlines by catching fire, producing a strong gas flow.

Petrel 2 confirmed the gas flow, but the distance of the wells from shore and the absence of markets for what would be an expensive product ensured that no development occurred.

Yesterday's tests from the 3823 to 3868 metres interval were the first of three in a series which began at the bottom of the target zone. The oil flow came with no water, indicating that it might extend lower in the well.

CSO: 5200/7522

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

ABALONE POACHING--Melbourne--Poachers have threatened licensed abalone divers at Geelong, according to fishing-industry officials. The officials said yesterday that several licensed divers were extremely worried by threats being made by letter and telephone. A car driven by a fisherman's wife had been deliberately run off the road, they said. Fisheries and wildlife officers at Geelong said that though they had been unable to confirm the threats they did not discount them. There was an organised racket of poaching in the Geelong area and intense rivalry between licensed divers and poachers. The district officer, Mr P. Crowe, said that in the past six months 11 divers poaching for commercial purposes had been caught and seven had been convicted and fined. The executive director of the Victorian Fishing Industry Council, Mr Peter Heighway, said: "Poaching is a matter of grave concern and places the stability of the industry in jeopardy." [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 8 Feb 82 p 28]

CSO: 5200/7522

WRITER SCORES U.S. POSITION ON LAW OF THE SEA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Mar 82 pp 5, 6

[Article by Hasan Ferdous]

[Text] A news item datelined Bonn, Feb. 5 which was published in The Bangladesh Times said a quadripartite agreement on the law of the sea and international deep sea mining has been reached. The members of the accord are West Germany, Great Britain, France and the United States, the only countries except Japan and Canada who are equipped to carry out independent research and exploration of the resources down deep in the sea.

The news item has escaped most people's notice but the attempt of these four major Western nations to sign a separate treaty among themselves on deep sea mining ignoring the UN efforts to conclude an international treaty involving all the nations of the world constitutes one more example of how the rich and powerful West is out to show who makes the laws and who can unmake them. This wanton disregard of the world body and the overwhelming desire of the international community deserves not only adequate explanation but also outright condemnation.

The codification of a unified law of the sea has been on the UN agenda ever since its inception more than three decades ago. The first conference on the issue called 1st UNCLOS (UN Conference on the Law of the Sea) was convened as early as 1948 and twelve years later a fresh conference (called 2nd UNCLOS) was held, but on both occasions the members of the conference failed to reach a broad based agreement on a number of issues. It was generally believed that the conference failed mostly due to a nagging attitude adopted by a number of nations claiming greater right on the resources of the ocean considered to be belonging to the whole human kind. The basic questions that the conferring nations found particularly debatable were on the outer limits of the territorial sea, regime of passage through international waters, recognition of the coastal states' fishing rights beyond the territorial sea and the question of peaceful uses of the sea bed area (the Area). Despite the apparent disagreement among themselves, the members of the United Nations decided to convene a fresh conference, this time it was called the 3rd UNCLOS. Since December 1973 this specialised UN agency has been in session and after painful and arduous bargaining for more than seven years a draft treaty was finally prepared early last year and was presented at New York for a final scrutiny before its

formal signing at Caracas later that year. One of the chief participants of the conference was the government of the United States and it was through the good office of the former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger that a compromise formula was adopted by the members of the draft treaty. But a most dramatic announcement was made by the new administration of President Ronald Reagan forty-two hours before the conference was scheduled to be opened that the US government was not yet prepared to consider the draft treaty for endorsement. Causing deep anger and frustration among the assembled members the Reagan administration declared it needed more time to review the treaty before it can be considered for ratification. It won't be inconsistent to remind the readers that three preceding US administrations (Nixon, Ford and Carter) were full members of the conference and they fully prescribed to the treaty. But now serious loopholes were discovered and Mr Reagan decided to pull the plug.

The Americans, however, found nothing detrimental to a number of decisions already reached at the conference among them general agreements on a 12-mile territorial sea, another 12-mile contiguous zone and a 200-mile exclusive economic zone. Broad consensus was also reached on the rights of access and freedom of transit for the landlocked countries. But the Americans decided to raise objections to an issue debates on which have taken the most of the time of the conference namely the question of deep seabed mining. The law of the sea (draft) wanted to limit the rights of the signatories to the exploration in the deep sea and confine them to agreeable levels. The treaty, if ever signed, aims at not only restricting the exploring rights of a number of international private organisations who have already invested many years of labour and millions of dollars in research and initial exploration but it also intends to bless the poor developing countries who do not have and will not have in the foreseeable future the means to explore in the deep sea with a share of the vast treasure of minerals now lying under water.

How rich is the deep sea? According to primary explorations, the ocean which constitutes three quarters of the world's surface has biological productivity ranging between 100 and 600 billion tons of living organism. Interests of the mining concerns are focused on nodules at a reachable depth between 2,000 and 3,000 metres which contain over twenty metallic elements among them the most valuable are nickel, copper, cobalt, manganese and molybdenum. Of these minerals cobalt is essential for jet turbine blades and sophisticated electronics, nickel is important for petro-chemical industry and molybdenum is indispensable for all steel, cast-iron and other non-ferrous metals.

According to the primary survey of the United Nations' department of international economic and social affairs (1980) potential nodules reserves of nickel go well beyond 290 million tonnes metal content, copper 240 million tonnes, cobalt 60 million and manganese 6,000 million tonnes. This should be noted that only three per cent of the entire sea bed has so far been surveyed and the rest if surveyed will definitely reveal the treasure which the whole mankind may be profitted from for many more next generations. According to US reports, the most prosperous zones are located in the East and South Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

It is only natural that the multi-national corporations with support from major industrial nations will cast an eye on this limitless resources. As a

matter of fact more than twenty-five major multinational corporations from eight major industrialised nations namely the USA, Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, Holland, France, West Germany and Japan have already grouped into five international consortia devoted totally to the research and exploration of seabed mining. An estimated two hundred million dollars have already been spent on the initial survey and research. It may be noted, seabed mining is such an expensive enterprise and so complicated is the technology involved that most developing countries do not have the minimum resources and ability to take up the industry independently. According to the estimates made by an American University the development cost of each mining site will be more than 560 million dollars and the operation cost more than 100 million. Besides internal rate of return for the baseline project will not be more than 15-20 per cent. Unquestionably only collassally rich parties can venture to undertake the operation. Major industrial nations and the multi-nationals owned by them already possess the means and technology to go right into deep sea mining. But what the UNCLOS was trying to do was to make sure that the resources don't go for the grab of a few already very rich.

The UNCLOS started with the assumption that ocean and its wealth are "common heritage of the mankind" and hence all nations, irrespective of its ability to explore the seabed should have a right to share it. To meet this popular demand of the overwhelmingly majority nations of the UN, the draft treaty prepared by the UNCLOS proposed that an inter-governmental organisation named International Seabed Authority which will possess wide ranging political and economic functions will supervise the whole mining operation. Initially the Third World countries proposed the Authority to have entire functional control over the seabed and carry out mining exclusively but later a parallel system of mining was put forward by Dr. Henry Kissinger and it was accepted as a compromise formula. According to this system, mining in the seabed area should be carried out simultaneously by the enterprise (the business organ of the Seabed Authority) and independent parties--individual states or corporations in sites allocated by the authority. The returns received from the explorations of the enterprise was expected to be shared by the UN members as a whole; a certain percentage from the profits of the individual parties was also scheduled to be channelled to the UN fund. It was believed, this formula if pursued honestly, could benefit the whole mankind, the multi-nationals not excluded.

The United States was the sole country which found objections in the treaty. Without specifically mentioning exactly what it has in mind and which clauses it finds incompatible, the US government cancelled all negotiations on the treaty. It was clear that the new administration was facing increasing opposition from corporate interests who if the treaty ratified would find their profits drastically slashed. Since then it has been clearly identified that the Reagan decision to plug the treat was taken on the insistence of a number of top officials with mining interests. Mr James Watt, Reagan's Secretary for Interior is one of them. It has been established that prior to his appointment in the high office Mr Watt was closely associated with a mining corporation engaged in seabed exploration. In hearing before the US Senate committee administration members confessed, the ratification of the treaty would oblige the multi-national corporations to transfer the technology

developed by them and also force them to work under the strictest surveillance. This is clearly opposite to US national interest.

Now to safeguard the corporate interests four industrialised nations have decided to go ahead with a unilateral agreement which will guarantee individual organisations originating from these countries to engage in seabed mining. This defiance of the international opinion is not only a wilful violation of accepted international norms but also an outright challenge to the international community. Seven years have already passed and millions of dollars already spent in the preparation of a universally accepted treaty on the seabed regime. But now a handful of nations whose disregard to international opinion has already become a common practice are out to nullify the entire toil and trouble. This accord announced to be signed in near future has come on the eve of fresh round of discussions on the draft treaty which is expected to open next month. Meanwhile, the US administration has so far failed to come out with a well defined statement on its policy towards the law of the sea; it has also failed to specify the clauses they find hard to swallow.

The Third World countries in association with other developed nations have now decided to go ahead with the completion of the treaty. In a recent statement made at the United Nations the chief of Peruvian delegation Alvaro de Soto who is also expected to head the proposed Seabel Authority said, nothing now can prevent the final adoption of the treaty. There is no reason for the USA to refuse a treaty which most countries in the world have found perfectly acceptable, he declared. If this draft is finally adopted and it later gets UN recognition, the proposed quadripartite treaty to be signed by the USA, France, United Kingdom and West Germany will also have little legal validity. According to observers the adoption of the international treaty on the law of the sea and its subsequent universal application will automatically nullify any national law contradicting the universality of the former one.

The international community is running out of options. If the United States wants to maintain its claim as the mightiest nation of the world and continue its responsibility as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, it should give a second thought on the law of the sea. "A second thought is better than its first thought," commented the New York Times.

CSO: 5200/7030

BRIEFS

SOUTH CHINA SEA INCIDENTS--Jakarta, 16 Mar (AFP)--The leading Indonesian daily newspaper KOMPAS today warned that recent incidents in the South China Sea could further aggravate the situation in the South-East Asian region. "Reports that 40 Thai fishing vessels had been seized by the pro-Vietnam Cambodian regime and naval clashes between Vietnamese and Chinese gunboats are making the sea hot," the paper said editorially. "The attitudes of Vietnam and China on the settlement of the Cambodian problem will surely have a certain bearing on the heating up of the South China Sea. Such a situation can be exploited by one side to force its will on the other and we shall watch how both sides will be accusing each other of violations. Perhaps this situation will persist as long as the Cambodian problem has not been settled, or it can be used as a pretext to protract the problem," the paper said. [Text] [BK161454 Hong Kong AFP in English 1348 GMT 16 Mar 82]

MOKHTAR COMMENTS ON CONFERENCE--Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja has said that there is no longer any problem regarding Indonesia's main interest in the sea law conference, because the concepts of the archipelagic principle, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone and so forth have been incorporated in the draft convention of the conference. Minister Mokhtar said this on arrival at Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusuma airport from visit to London, the Hague and New York. But he said the stipulation of the draft convention on the limitation of production from the international seabed, which affects Indonesia's interest as a mineral mining country, is among the questions being raised again by the United States. All efforts to maintain the compromise which has been achieved on the mining of the international seabed will be carried on at the ninth session of the sea law conference in New York. [Text] [BK161606 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 16 Mar 82]

CSO: 5200/5643

FISH EXPORTS AT 129,000 TONS in 1981, 17 PERCENT RISE

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 19 Feb 82 p 14

[Text]

Wellington

New Zealand last year exported 129,000 tonnes of fish, worth \$190 million — a rise of 17 per cent on 1980.

"This continues the trend of substantial jumps in fisheries production every year since 1978 when exports were only 34,000 tonnes with a value of \$26 million," said the chairman of the Fisheries Industry Board, Mr M. Hinchcliff.

Joint Ventures

Domestic production accounted for \$110 million of last year's exports, with joint ventures providing the remainder.

Mr Hinchcliff said that at least 20 per cent of the joint-venture exports had been processed in on-shore processing plants.

Rock lobster was the biggest single export, totalling \$36 million, but the most dramatic growth was in fin-

fish sales, which jumped 37 per cent to \$117 million.

Although orange roughy exports rose to \$16 million, snapper — at \$20 million — retained its place as the main fin-fish exported.

Others included tuna (\$14 million), hoki (\$6 million) and barracuda and the warehou (\$5.5 million each).

Exports of squid — entirely a joint-venture catch — totalled \$20 million.

Board Optimistic

"The board is optimistic that the general improvement in export markets during the year, after a long period of virtual stagnation, will continue," Mr Hinchcliff said.

"We expect that we could see a further strengthening of prices in most markets, with more economic prices being returned in the coming year.

"Whether or not this new level of exports can be maintained and even increased, will depend substantially on the ease with which any transition from joint venture activity to domestic operations takes place."

CO: 5200/9085

LIMITATION ON EXPLOITATION OF HAKE RESOURCE URGED

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 3 Mar 82 p 20

(Text)

PROCEED with caution is the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' attitude towards the exploitation of hake — a resource coveted by both domestic and joint venture fishermen.

Hake, a trawl-caught fish, is found at a depth of 200 to 800 metres. The 70 centimetre fish is sought for its moist white flesh, unspoiled by bones.

In the past, domestic fishermen limited their catching to inshore waters and the deep water species were an occasional by-catch. Now they are being promoted by the catering trade and Fishing Industry Board with the hope of ensuring a regular supply to consumers.

A study of the Westland hake fishery prepared by a fisheries scientist, Mr G J Patchell, says that little is known about the long term variability of the fishery.

It would be prudent to limit the total allowable catch to a level well below the maximum sustainable yield until more data is

available," Mr Patchell said.

In the past hake has been exploited primarily by foreign fishing fleets. Significant catches have been reported since 1976 off Westland.

A new hake resource was discovered in January 1980 when 252 tonnes was caught on the Chatham Rise.

In July 1981 the Minister of Fisheries, Mr MacIntyre, decided that joint venture boats would be allowed 1000 tonnes and the domestic fleet 1500 tonnes.

The decision followed a dispute between New Zea-

land's commercial fishermen and joint venture operators who claimed that the domestic fleet was failing to harvest the hake from the area from which joint ventures were excluded.

In August 1981 joint venture boats were allowed back into the zone on the West Coast.

The Government is expected to announce its policy on the development of New Zealand's fish resources — and the participation of joint ventures — for 1982 within the next two to three weeks.

CSO: 4700/9085

BRIEFS

JAPANESE SQUID FISHERMEN--Dunedin, March 4 (PA)--The size of a Japanese squid fishing fleet off the north Otago coast has been confirmed at more than 100 boats despite official Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries estimates of about 20. The New Zealand coastal tanker Anokura, steaming south to Dunedin from Lyttelton, passed the first members of the fleet at about 10 am. It passed the last at about 2 pm. At one point during the passage officers on the bridge counted all the boats they could see and came up with 110 confirmed and an estimate of 150 in total. None of the boats was fishing at the time. All were using sea anchors to stay in position, outside the 12-mile limit. The officers confirmed what north Otago citizens have observed for some time, that a very large squid fishing fleet is operating off the coast. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 5 Mar 82 p 3]

HAURAKI GULF RESTRICTIONS--Many Auckland commercial fishermen will have to haul in their nets and shift out of the Hauraki Gulf on Monday when new regulations come into effect. Pair Danish seining and pair trawling will be prohibited entirely in the gulf until September 1. They may then resume their activities but only in waters north of a line from Cape Rodney to Cape Barrier. Pair Danish seiners and pair trawlers with a registered length of less than 19 metres will still be allowed to work in the gulf fishing area 005, just north of the Cape Rodney to Cape Barrier line, from September 1 to the last day of February only. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has introduced the new rules to try to prevent further depletion of snapper stocks. The fishermen hit hardest are likely to be the owners of medium-sized fishing boats, many of which were designed and built during the past 10 years or so for fishing in the semi-protected waters of the gulf. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 Feb 82 p 1]

FISH SAMPLING TRIP--Fisheries research division deep-water scientist Mr Peter McMillan has just returned from a two-week oreo dory sampling trip on the James Cook research boat with previously uncollected data about the fish, which could aid commercial fishermen. There are two main species of oreo dory in New Zealand waters--smooth and black. Commercial fishing boats do not record the breakdown of the two species as they are caught. Mr McMillan discovered that the black oreo dory was found in shallow water at a depth of up to 600 metres while the less tasty smooth dory was found at depths of over 850 metres. During the 1981-82 fishing year, 10,000 tonnes of oreo dory was caught by the export-oriented joint venture boats. Mr McMillan is collating his data on the age, size, weight and sex composition of the fish. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 22 Feb 82 p 15]

SEAGA ON LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS

FL242355 Bridgetown CANA in English 2138 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 24 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica is hoping that negotiations for a law of the sea treaty will be completed in time for the planned signing in Venezuela in September, prime minister, Edward Seaga, has said.

"We are all aware...that these (law of the sea) deliberations have run into some problems in terms of objections from some countries, namely the United States.

"However, it is envisaged that such objections will be dealt with in time to enable the deliberations to be completed, so that the conference in Caracas in 1982 will be in a position to sign the international law of the sea," Mr Seaga told parliament yesterday.

He was then seeking approval for a 20 million dollar (U.S.) loan from a consortium of banks to help finance construction of the building here that will serve as a temporary headquarters for the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

The law of the sea negotiations ran into trouble because the Reagan administration objected to sections of a draft agreement which the United States had already endorsed under the former Jimmy Carter administration.

Meanwhile, Jamaica is looking for an economic boom from having the ISA headquarters sited here.

Prime Minister Seaga told parliament that during the first five years it was expected that there would be an inflow of 83 million dollars (U.S.) for the operational costs of the headquarters, which would more than cover the \$4.6 million dollars the government is now spending on constructing the temporary facilities.

In addition it would mean the inflow of salaries for officials, more embassies and high commissions and increase businesses to serve these groups, the prime minister indicated.

SO: 5200/2062

WEALTH OF NATION'S FISHING RESOURCES EXAMINED

Victoria NATION in French 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 Feb 82

[Articles by Aicha Toualbi and Habib Mosaheb]

[10 Feb 82 pp 3, 10]

[Text] Along with agriculture and tourism, the fishing sector is capable, in the medium range, of securing the lion's share in the Seychellois economy, since fish, as everyone knows, makes up the population's basic food.

The Seychellois are said to consume some 90 kilograms of fish per person per year, a figure which on its own explains why there was an interest in taking a closer look at what fishing amounts to in the Seychelles, reviewing the problems involved, the possibilities open, and the prospects for development that are taking shape.

Even though the knowledge of a few facts and figures seems informative on more than one score for a better understanding of so vast a subject, we are going to try, by means of a few articles over and above the technical facts and figures that may elude the layman, to grasp the issue of Seychellois fishery in its most ordinary and tangible aspects.

With an economic area of 1 million square kilometers, territorial waters extending 12 miles (19 kilometers) out, and a large stock of fish, enormous possibilities are potentially available to the Seychellois fishing industry. What are the facts?

Diversified Reserves

For the moment, the situation looks far from idyllic. Deep-sea fishing is little practised still by the Seychellois fishing fleet, whereas the coastal areas are being over-fished and fishing results are still unsatisfactory compared to what they could be if problems were resolved, such as the shortage of vessels, and of funds and manpower, and the lack of infrastructure, and if questions, such as: "Should fishing be done with nets or with rods, or both?" were answered.

Tuna, so plentiful in the Indian Ocean, is a fish which, as they say, "is going well" on the international market. There are customers throughout the world, but supply cannot yet meet the demand in that market, unfortunately, it is very likely that it could be an appreciable source of income for the country.

Assuring Continuity

Another crucial issue raised by a SEYCOM (Seychelles National Commodity Company Limited) official is the need for introducing younger fishermen. The experienced fishermen are mostly elderly or middle-aged men, whose experience, often very extensive, needs to be passed on to younger ones. But a lack of interest in this profession is noted among young people, a lack of motivation and self-interest that is worth some concern without too much delay.

Fish reserves are very diversified. The great variety of fish can be separated into two categories popularly known as bottom-fish and open sea fish, or more scientifically, flatfish and pelagic fish.

To mention the best-known species, it can be said that the bottom-fish are essentially made up of "bourgeois", wrasse, etcetera, and open sea fish of tuna, mackerel, etcetera.

Biomass, which is all the living matter concealed in the ocean, amounts to 70,000 to 90,000 tons of fish on the Mahe and Amirantes plateau, in terms of flatfish, of which 8,000 to 9,000 tons can be harvested every year.

Reserves of large pelagics, that is to say, tuna, are estimated at 60,000 tons, a very fluctuating figure, however, the maximum harvestable being 15,000 tons a year. The annual catch volume of both categories is estimated at 6,000 tons, of which about 5,000 tons are consumed locally, and the surplus intended for export.

Local Objectives

The Fishing Development Company, a partially state-controlled enterprise founded 5 months ago to take over from private and state companies that had existed until then and centralize fishing activities, is a subsidiary of SEYCOM, and its dual purpose is to fish for the local market and supply the foreign market. The FDC (Fishing Development Company) is involved in both traditional fishing and industrial fishing.

Predictions established on the basis of catches over the past 5 months are on the order of 45 tons of fish per vessel per year for traditional fishing, no reasonably reliable prediction being possible yet for industrial fishing which is only just getting started.

The FDC at present comprises an industrial fishing vessel and a fleet of 18 vessels that cannot stay at sea for more than 9 days, of which 12 are

operational for the present. These 12 vessels employ about 60 fishermen paid at piece-rates. They are presently equipped only for fish preservation on ice.

Nevertheless, the FDC is setting itself a number of objectives, the company director, Jacqueline Lablache explained, that are expected to improve the situation relatively soon. First new vessels have to be acquired, two more between now and the end of the year, to bring the fleet up to 20 units, as the 6 unusable vessels are to be restored before the end of June. Later, when the ship-yard of Boat Builders Limited in La Digue is ready, FDC will have the vessels it needs built there.

One of the company's first concerns, Mr Lablache stressed, is to protect traditional fishing by improving the overall situation..

This means not only modernizing vessels, equipping them with refrigeration systems to enable them to stay at sea longer, but also providing the conditions for a less wretched fate for fishermen, protecting their safety better, particularly by equipping the vessels with rescue systems, radios, medical supply units, fire extinguishers, everything that should logically have a positive effect on fishing itself.

The sole industrial fishing vessel, the "Seykor," is equipped for tuna fishing with the "palangre," or "long line," a system consisting of a line several kilometers long to which a whole series of other lines equipped with hooks is attached. The FDC uses this fishing method on board the "Seykor" by agreement with a foreign company, with 51 percent of shares belonging to the Seychelles.

Enhance Training

The first catches brought in by the "Seykor" at the end of a 2½-month expedition at sea weighed 140 tons; it is as yet impossible to say whether this volume will be maintained, increased, or diminished as the months go by, and it cannot be used as a basis for any predictions. Twenty-nine navy fishermen are working aboard the "Seykor," including 4 Seychellois apprentices. The FDC, Mr Lablache states, is concerned about enhancing this type of sea-borne training, which is considered the fastest and the most effective.

The greater part of the nation's fishing catch is supplied by individual fishermen working for themselves or for fishing-vessel owner-operators. Their catches are sold directly to SEYCOM, in the villages or the central market.

We went to SEYCOM where we met a few free-lance fishermen who are working for owner-operators. We had a talk with an official, Claude Moise, as well as with a few fishermen who had just brought in their catch.

We discovered that about 15 vessels work with SEYCOM on a regular basis,

including 12 eight- to nine-meter boats with 8 fishermen aboard at most. Their average catch amounts to 25 tons of fish a week, generally including tuna, parangids, bonita, boureeis, job. They are equipped to store fish in ice.

Other fishermen work with fish-traps (lobster-pots, bow-nets), etcetera) or with rods in small boats for excursions not exceeding 1 day in duration. It is hard to quantify this type of fishing, done with the most traditional equipment and on an irregular basis, but according to some officials, their contribution is still very significant at market level in various districts.

Though it seems to be a matter of the highest importance to maintain and even develop traditional fishing, which is better understood and less expensive, it appears that any large-scale development of fishing requires the implementation of industrial or semi-industrial methods capable of boosting the sector and complementing traditional methods. In any case, as is pointed out by Joel Nageon de Lestang, fisheries officer, it is important to remember that the Indian Ocean does not contain an inexhaustible supply of fish, and that exceeding the workable limits would involve the risk of destroying existing reserves for many years to come.

[11 Feb 82 p 3]

[Text] In the Seychelles fishing has given rise to an impressive amount of scientific research which has rendered possible a more precise of the seabed and the flora and fauna of this area of the Indian Ocean.

From these studies it is evident that bottom fishing, which is to be the object of rapid improvements in the next few years, is in good shape, the only danger not to be underestimated being, as we pointed out in the previous article, that of exceeding the limit of 7,500 tons of fish a year, the threshold beyond which the fish supply would be in danger of depletion that it would be difficult to reverse.

But for deep-sea fishing, essentially tuna fishing, requiring industrial or semi-industrial methods, and upon which the future of fishery in the Seychelles depends, a question of the highest importance is still utterly unanswered: what type of fishing should be selected?

Two experiments, very promising initially, ended up, like that of the four SNAFIC (Seychelles National Fishing Company) tuna boats, in distressing failure. Whether because of this aborted project or other earlier experiments, there is still a question as to what measures to implement to increase significantly the annual fishing volume and as to the most appropriate method for catching tuna: drag-net, long line, rod, industrial or semi-industrial means?

Two experimental campaigns now in progress, one Spanish and the other French, attracted our attention particularly.

Impressive Results

Since the start of their campaign, that is, since last December, the two Spanish vessels, of medium size, using semi-traditional methods, equipped for rod-fishing, have been bringing in an average of 40 tons of fish a month for each boat, a really spectacular result which has rallied the most sceptical to this type of fishing, and there were a lot of sceptics at the beginning.

Even today, a number of doubters are finding it hard to believe the figures reported and want proof. So what occurs at the port when the two Spanish vessels unload their cargo is quite astonishing.

The quantities of fish unloaded unfailingly cause a curious crowd to gather, unable to believe its eyes. And because of the lack of infrastructure, the only available quick-freeze chamber having a capacity of merely 10 tons, the Spaniards find themselves normally forced to wait several days to unload all their fish, whereas they would like to put to sea again the same day that they return to port.

In the opinion of Joel Nageon de Lestang, fisheries officer, their success, however impressive it may seem here in the Seychelles, is not at all surprising in itself. The Spanish, Mr Nageon tells us, are the best in the world with this fishing technique.

With respect to the success achieved, Mr Nageon thinks, the Seychelles would have everything to gain by acquiring vessels of the sort used by the Spanish, especially since these boats are inexpensive and involve little funding.

Key Question: Live Bait

however, Mr Nageon stresses, it is important for the Seychellois to learn the technique and succeed in mastering it perfectly. But there is no doubt, Mr Nageon asserts, that this type of fishing represents great hope for Seychellois fishery.

The Spaniards' first advantage is in having been wise enough to take the necessary time to catch live bait, without which rod fishing is only an illusion. The bait problem, Mr Nageon explained, is an acute issue throughout the world.

The Spaniards have proved that contrary to past assertions, Seychellois waters contain sufficient quantities of fish that can be used as bait, such as the "chinchar" or the macoune, which has the scientific name "decapterus." The Spaniards' research has enabled the conclusion to be reached that living bait exists in abundance on the Mahe shelf, wherever the water depth does not exceed 45 to 60 meters.

It should be stressed that the Fisheries Division does happen to have a boat specifically for hunting for live bait. This vessel, the "Scyllarus," was delivered last August to the Seychellois government, completely repaired and refitted, by the French Ministry of Cooperation, and should, as the minister of planning and development, Dr Maxime Ferrari, said at the time, provide "great possibilities for success in tuna fishing."

The key issue of live bait is also the subject of another study now being carried out by ORSTOM, the Overseas Scientific and Technical Research Office.

Raft: an Experiment to be Watched

ORSTOM is also working on another project concerning tuna which is worth mentioning. It concerns a fishing procedure implementing not a boat but a raft made of rope, pipes welded together, bamboo poles, and four floats. On the raft are hung ropes to which are attached coconut-palm fronds that create shadows and attract small fish expecting to find protection in the areas of shade and foliage.

Once the little fish are under the raft, they in their turn, though they are few in number, and the phenomenon has not yet been clearly determined, bring about mass arrival of tuna schools. All that remains to be done is to catch the tuna with a net. The only disadvantage of the rafts is that they are very expensive.

The ORSTOM rafts have only recently been anchored in place, and it is therefore still too early to say if the method should be adopted by the Seychelles or not.

However, experiments in fishing with the aid of rafts have been done with good results in Haiti, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Hawaii, and Indonesia.

[12 Feb 82 p 3]

[Text] While the Spanish rod-fishing campaign continues with impressive success, another experiment, a French one, has begun in seine-fishing, with positive initial results. The Spanish are using semi-traditional methods, the French, sophisticated industrial methods. Is a choice between the two experiments foreseeable already?

With the research operations carried on by ORSTOM and on the basis of another experiment deemed fruitful, that was carried out from December 1980 to February 1981 by the French tuna-seiner "Ile de Sein" belonging to the Ministere Shipfitting Cooperative, a new experimental seine-fishing campaign was decided upon last year in March between the Seychellois government and the French government.

Almost a Full Load

Finalized last October, and agreed upon for a minimum of 6 months, the campaign was financed half by the French Consortium for Fishing Development, COFREPECHE, and half by the French government and receives all possible assistance from the Seychellois government, including the support of a prospection aircraft.

Sixteen million French francs were allocated to the campaign, or some 17.2 million rupees. Under the terms of the agreement, the vessel "Yves de Kerguelen" left Dakar on 25 October bound for Seychellois waters.

The "Yves de Kerguelen" is to continue to experiment begun by the "Ile de Sein," become more familiar with this area of the Indian Ocean, and finally, determine whether seine-fishing can be practised there successfully, and in what conditions.

According to Mr Raynaud, president and general manager of COFREPECHE, which is directing the campaign, the "Ile de Sein" had already succeeded in proving false the idea that nothing would come of seine-fishing. The "Yves de Kerguelen" hopes to arrive at the same conclusions, the same "disproving."

Every condition has been met to make this campaign a success: highly sophisticated equipment, a vessel capable of being longer at sea, a helicopter, and during its first fishing expedition, the "Yves de Kerguelen" had the advantage of support from the French research aircraft "Interthon."

After the first 2½-month experiment, the "Yves de Kerguelen" returned to the port of Victoria with a 600-ton load: in other words, Mr Raynaud told us, "We nearly filled up."

Even taking into consideration the few difficulties encountered during the first fishing trip, a completely fruitless first month, a small technical problem that was quickly corrected, unusual periods of bad weather, and the impossibility of berthing during the whole curfew period, it can be asserted that the 600 tons harvested by the "Yves de Kerguelen" amount to an encouraging outcome.

No Conclusions

The question then is to find out whether such catches can be made on a regular basis. Mr Raynaud feels that at the moment there is no justification for such an affirmation. It has to be taken into account that the aircraft "Interthon" greatly contributed to the success in that the vessel several times sailed toward waters where there were no fish, and the "Interthon" criss-crossing the area in all directions, quickly detected the regions where fish were present and toward which the boat needed to head.

Now that the "Interthon" is gone, the "Yves de Kerguelen" will certainly receive help intermittently from the support of a Seychellois aircraft, but

without full-time help, it will continue its campaign somewhat handicapped.

However, Mr Raynaud particularly wants to point out, even though it can be asserted, as proven, that seine-fishing is possible in the Seychelles, no overall conclusions can yet be drawn. Further pronouncements will have to wait until the campaign is over. But still, it can be said as of now that a certain number of conditions must be met if we are to launch into this type of fishing in the Seychelles: acquisition of ultra-modern equipment that is extremely expensive both in terms of investment and operation, a spotter-aircraft to support it full-time, and personnel with the appropriate training being the minimal conditions, apart from which we are still without any real certainty as to prospects of making such a project profitable on the Seychelles market.

In addition, even if with all conditions met, the operation turned out to be profitable, the question of processing the fish for sale would have to be resolved first, even if part of the fish can be supplied to the world market fresh.

Great Migrator

One element that could also contribute to making this type of fishing profitable, and should not be overlooked, is the development of regional cooperation in the matter, tuna being a great migrator and "indifferent to economic zone frontiers." Mr Raynaud told us: "You have to be able to follow tuna wherever it goes."

If, and only if, all conditions were met, industrial fishing of the "Yves de Kerguelen" type, practised as a counterpart of traditional fishing, "might lead to an important economic development."

13 Feb 82 p 7

Text With regulations on the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone coming into effect, vast possibilities in fishing are opening up for many countries, including those in the southwest zone of the Indian Ocean. However, these possibilities require appropriate means for more coherent and rational development that will permit the countries concerned to derive the maximum in social benefits (improvement of fishermen's living conditions, reduction of unemployment) and economic benefits (meeting the population's food requirements, monetary returns, etcetera).

But the countries in our region, taken individually, have limited technical, financial, and manpower resources. Hence the need for effective regional cooperation, which would be the only way to respond to the new situation.

Regional Project

It is such cooperation that is addressed by the regional project of the

Committee for Development and Organization of Fishing in the Southwest Indian Ocean, which brings together, in addition to the Seychelles, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, Somalia, Reunion, and Mauritius.

The project, financed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), also receives the assistance of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The committee was set up in 1980 by the Indian Ocean Fishing Commission (an organization sponsored by the FAO) bringing together the 36 Indian Ocean countries, and as observers, a certain number of other countries, such as France, the United States, and Japan.

The commission feels, indeed, that with the development of fishing, a single project covering so vast an area as the Indian Ocean would not meet the needs of the member countries very well. It therefore decided to create subregional committees and to have projects connected to those committees instead.

For the southwest Indian Ocean zone, project documentation is not yet finalized. However, an FAO expert, Mr Ardill, has been in the Seychelles for some time already, working on this project.

The project affects just about all sectors of fishing (traditional or according to local practice, and to a lesser extent, industrial).

Objectives

It covers indeed the full range from selection of vessels (or fishing devices of appropriate type) problems of preservation of fish already aboard vessels, fish unloading problems, and packing, to unloading, transportation to market, marketing problems, etcetera.

Intended to provide liaison among all the countries in the zone so as to find joint solutions for problems that are generally joint problems, the project also involves closer cooperation in maritime surveillance.

It should be noted that the Committee for Development and Organization of Fishing in the Southwest Indian Ocean had decided during its meeting in Mauritius last year to finalize strengthened fishing control and inspection systems at the national as well as regional levels, and to improve legislation to adapt them to all the member countries. We also recall that a regional seminar on this issue will take place next April in the Seychelles.

When a country tackles surveillance and control problems on its own, the cost can become very burdensome, because semi-military resources are needed. Mr Ardill was to state. That he added, reduces the country's income from fishing. Regional cooperation can undoubtedly reduce surveillance costs very noticeably.

Estimation of Stocks

The project will also help the countries involved to estimate the stocks of fish available in the region, to determine, therefore, the quantity of fish that can be harvested without over-fishing, and to choose among the various ways of making catches as profitable as possible.

Closer concertation among the countries in the region, particularly concerning tuna-fishing, in which there are far too many vessels for a limited stock of fish, would make it possible to limit the number of licences granted to foreign boats, and thus increase daily catches for each boat, which would improve returns for both shipowners and the countries involved.

Training

What are the project's plans for training?

"The first concern is training of cadre, rather than fishermen directly, because most of the countries in this zone have fishing services that are very young. Thus, most of the cadre have university training that is very good, but specialization in fishing -- and in particular in tropical fishing, which is much more complex because of the large number of species and the fragility of the environment -- is an undeniable necessity. The project ought therefore to have a rather important role in this," Mr Ardill indicated.

As to training for fishermen, the FAO expert continued, "I think that it requires outlays that exceed the financial possibilities of such a project." But of course, the fact must not be overlooked that regional coordination in that sector would be extremely extensive, he specified.

One of the project's roles would be precisely to identify priority topics in which training could most easily be given, and to try to interest providers of bilateral or multilateral aid to finance such appropriate training.

Under this project, then, regional cooperation is expected to grow stronger to the advantage of all the peoples concerned, especially since fishing is in itself a sector that requires in present conditions greater regional cooperation to be more profitable.

Until now, a large part of international aid to fishing has been given to individual countries. This aid, however, is very costly, because the cost of experts and equipment is very high.

It is also noted that international aid is often directed toward other sectors to the detriment of fishing, which in many cases does not receive adequate allocations to permit rational development and the completion of projects which are very costly.

There is thus no doubt that the regional projects are conducive to solving this sort of problem and meeting the needs of as many countries as possible.

[15 Feb 82 p 2]

[Text] How is marketing organized for the 6,000 tons of fish that represents, as already noted, the annual catch in the Seychelles? What are the problems and the prospects in this economic pursuit? Where do exports stand? These are a few aspects of fish marketing that attracted our attention.

Fish marketing is done on two levels. Fish is sold by individuals in the markets of the capital and the various districts of the republic. The fish involved here are bourgeois, carangid, becune, etc.; as well as "little fish" (cordonnier, cacatoa, mackerel, etc.), caught in traps or with nets. The latter are sold in "packs" of about 2 kilograms. Prices vary between 10 and 25 rupees.

In the coastal villages, the fish is often sold directly, by the fishermen, at lower prices. Although we are unable to put a figure on the volume of these sales, it is nevertheless clear that they represent an appreciable market share.

SEYCOM

SEYCOM (Seychelles National Commodity Company Limited), a parastatal enterprise, also handles the sale of fish on the Seychelles market, as well as exporting it, as it does for all other Seychelles products.

According to the figures given by Guynemer Corgat, the SEYCOM official in charge of local fish marketing, it appears that the enterprise sells about 50 to 60 tons of fish a month during the good season. The figure is higher (65 to 85 tons a month) during the period of the southeasterly monsoon, commonly known as the "bad season."

The reason for the increase is a simple one, Mr Corgat explains. During the southeasterly monsoon, district markets cannot meet demand, their own supplies being significantly reduced because of the bad weather prevailing at sea, which prevents many boats from going out.

People go much more often to SEYCOM, where there is always a supply in reserve specifically to meet this situation.

At SEYCOM, fish is sold either fresh or frozen. It is classified into two categories: bourgeois, flat wrasse, kingfish, sailfish, marlin, tuna job, and becune are in category A, while carangid, bonita, "varavara," "white captain," "laacar," and "madame Berry" are in category B.

Category A fish is sold at 8 rupees per kilogram, and category B fish at 5 rupees, and the price is the same for fresh fish as for frozen.

"As soon as the fish is unloaded, we examine it to see if it is fit for consumption. Then we decide on the volume to be sold fresh, frozen or earmarked for export," Mr Corgat explains.

The fish is then placed in a large freezer below 35°C, from which it will be taken to "temporary storage" in small cold storage rooms. From there, it will take to the sea, in the refrigeration holds of large vessels (this time for export), or will be found neatly done up in plastic wrappers for sale to consumers.

Customers

A distinction is made between two types of customer: large-quantity buyers (such as schools, the Port Launay youth village, the hospitals, the army, and the hotels) and the public at large.

SEYCOM also sells fish filets and steaks, and is expecting to launch in the near future a whole range of new products, such as tuna-burgers, ground fish, sausage, fish "hot dogs" and more.

Studies are in progress. Some of them already enable the assertion to be made that fish thus processed will be much appreciated by the population and will constitute a profitable enterprise.

Mr Corgat also stated that the marketing service is somewhat handicapped by lack of facilities, both in unloading and freezing. This question is under study, and in a while, he specified, we shall be in a position to offer our customers better service.

SEYCOM also hopes to have branches for fish sales in the various districts of the republic.

Prejudice Against Frozen Products

We asked Mr Corgat about the widespread prejudice in the Seychelles as in some other countries against frozen products. What does he think about it?

"It is true that there is still this prejudice in our country, especially since we have always been used to consuming fresh fish. But in my opinion the present trend shows that the prejudice is starting to disappear."

This view is also shared by Bernard Kadda, SEYCOM export manager.

"The fish sold at SEYCOM has no parasites in it. It meets health and hygiene requirements, which is not often the case with fish sold elsewhere," he says.

As is the widely-held prejudice that frozen fish loses a little of its flavor, Mr Kadda is categorical: "That is not true!" It has been proven all over the world that freezing has no effect on the flavor of fish, he says.

Exports

With respect to exporting Seychellois fish, Mr Kadda informed us that for the present this activity is limited to a few destinations, in particular Reunion, France, Belgium, and Australia.

At the moment, unfortunately, Mr Kadda states, we are a long way from meeting demand from numbers of customers emerging on all sides, because the supply is still inadequate.

There is also, the export official specified, the problem of extremely costly transportation for fresh fish, which limits what we can do. That, he stressed, is why Reunion is our main market at present.

Fish is sold in two forms: fresh and frozen. Fresh fish (bourgeois, mackerel, flat wrasse, red mullet, etc) is supplied on a weekly basis. The volume of fresh fish exported by air to Reunion, France, and Belgium is 3 tons a week.

Every month, 40 tons of frozen fish is sent by sea to Reunion, Australia, and France. Tuna is of course sent in addition to all the above varieties of fish.

Expansion of the Fishing Industry

In Mr Kadda's opinion, there really do exist vast opportunities for expanding the fishing industry, not only to meet the domestic demand, but also for the foreign market, which indubitably represents a significant source of revenues.

However, he feels, the problems of infrastructure, transportation, training, lowering the average age of the fishermen, would all have to be solved, and not only that, but also, Mr Kadda makes a point of stressing, a major issue should not be overlooked -- that of competence and productivity.

With better management of production, Mr Kadda concludes, and a more highly developed professional and political awareness among certain people, the present resources would already give much more satisfactory results.

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EDITORIAL VIEWS ISSUES OF LAST LOS SESSION

Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 8 Mar 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Law of the Sea: the Last Round"]

[Text] The delegates of 150 countries will meet in New York this Monday evening to begin what could be the last round of the interminable United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The first session took place in 1974! And after quibbling and hair-splitting for 85 weeks of official proceedings and behind-the-scenes talks, the delegations now have a "draft treaty" comprising no less than 320 articles, with 8 appendixes that have an additional 120 articles.

As of this Monday, it is likely that the delegations will get into the heart of the matter, for they also have a 43-page American document that presents in detail all the complaints that the Reagan administration presents against the draft treaty as well as the solutions that it proposes.

It is in fact essentially on the problem of exploitation of the deep ocean bottoms that there is a risk of confrontation between the Americans, on the one hand--though they will doubtlessly be supported by the industrialized Western countries--and the developing countries. The ocean bottoms hold polymetallic "nODULES," composed mainly of copper, nickel, chrome, cobalt and manganese, the commercial value of which is estimated at billions of dollars, though it is not entirely certain that such fabulous sums could be gained from mining of them.

Only a few Western firms are in a position, by reason of their advanced technological position, to mine the deep bottoms, though the necessary technique still has not been completely perfected. In view of this situation, the developing countries obviously fear they will witness an abrupt drop in the prices for their raw materials if, with the mining of the oceans, there comes to be an oversupply on the market. They also fear that since the technology is in the hands of the Westerners, they will nail down these new resources, thus making the poorest even poorer.

In response to these anxieties, the industrialized countries agreed quite quickly that the resources of the ocean bottoms would be considered part of the "common patrimony of mankind." This amounted to accepting, at the outset, the principle of a sharing.

The discussion grew bitter when the developing countries demanded the creation of a high authority that would have complete control over the mining of the deep ocean bottoms, it being understood that the Westerners would have to furnish the technology and also transmit it to eventual candidates, while at the same time providing the financing for the operations.

The Western countries were on the point of accepting a gentleman's agreement, subject to a few guarantees, when Mr Reagan's election to the White House upset everything. The new American chief executive, faithful to "free enterprise," rejected the proposed ocean-bottoms authority outright, making it clear that whatever might happen, the other countries would be hard-put to prevent certain American companies--in which there is some sizable participatory interest (belgian)--from launching into mining of the nodules. Furthermore, if an authority were to be set up, it would be out of the question, as far as President Reagan is concerned, for the United States not to have a right of veto in it.

These are the ideas that the Americans are now going to defend, and while it is announced officially that the present session is to be the last one, there is nothing to say that the 150 countries will finally manage to come to an understanding. In the absence of overall agreement, it would doubtlessly be possible to agree on a number of chapters of the draft treaty. That would constitute the birth of a new law of the sea, improved but incomplete.

Furthermore, an agreement is all the more problematic now that--since the Conference has dragged on for so long--polymetallic sulfur deposits that could make mining of the famous nodules less attractive have now been discovered, in addition to the nodules. The discovery of these polymetallic sulfurs could diminish the developing countries' enthusiasm for mining of the deep ocean bottoms common to all of "mankind": these sulfurs are close to the coasts of certain underdeveloped countries, and they do not risk entering into the great planetary patrimony.

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NORWAY ACTIVE IN SEARCH FOR COMPROMISE AT LOS CONFERENCE

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 19 Mar 82 p 12

[Article: "Norway Active in Law of the Sea Compromise"]

[Text] "The Law of the Sea Conference in New York is in a critical final phase where, unfortunately, a showdown vote on a Law of the Sea Convention is possible. The Norwegian delegation has been instructed to make an active attempt to reach compromises," cabinet minister Eivinn Berg of the Foreign Ministry told AFTENPOSTEN.

Partial implementation of a Law of the Sea Convention would create more problems than it would solve. In addition, it would be a poor foundation for any future continuation of negotiations on a Law of the Sea Convention acceptable to all, according to Berg.

"The Norwegian delegation has not refused to discuss the new American proposal that has been made. We want a Law of the Sea Convention with the broadest possible support," Berg said.

Developing countries, especially, have sharply criticized the American proposal concerning important sections of the convention text. In addition, this proposal was presented at an extremely late date, since the conference is to be concluded next week. For this reason, the final spurt in the Law of the Sea Conference is much more hectic than it reasonably should be, especially since discussions have been held for 8 years.

The United States is not alone in its proposed changes on central points of the text. Several large, prominent industrial countries sympathize with the Americans with regard to law of the sea regulations and operations on the ocean bed, among other things.

If the American initiative should lead to a breakdown in the negotiations, it could create new hostility between north and south, between industrialized countries and developing countries, cabinet minister Berg said. "It may become even more difficult to establish global negotiations on the relationship between north and south, since an unsuccessful Law of the Sea Conference would underscore the negative aspects of relations between industrialized countries and developing countries."

"On this background, the Norwegian delegation has clear instructions to participate actively in the final phase of negotiations to secure agreement on the convention text with the participation of the United States and other industrialized countries."

Berg stressed that it was natural for Norway to work actively within the group of Western industrialized nations to achieve compromise texts that could receive broad international support. He pointed out in this connection that Norway was extremely interested in establishing the principle of a 200-mile economic zone in international law and in maintaining the interests of Norwegian shipping and activity on the continental shelf.

Cabinet minister Eivinn Berg did not wish to comment on the contents of the compromise proposal presented last Thursday, since the conference now is in a critical phase.

"At present it is difficult to say where Norway would stand in a possible showdown vote," he said.

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FISHERIES MINISTER THOR LISTAU COMMENTS ON POLICIES

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 16 Jan 82 p 7

[Interview with Thor Listau by Rie Bistrup]

[Text] Prime minister? Full of responsibilities, demanding. Finance minister? Almost hopeless.

Fisheries minister? No, God forbid. There are fisheries boundaries and the mesh size of nets, cod wars, capelin and herring. Independent gangs of fishermen and the fat-herring fishermen.

If there is not a ban on fishing one place, there is a ban on deliveries at another. And if it is not the Barents Sea it is Iceland or the EC and Danish drift nets for salmon.

Fishing in Norway is district policy with settlement and bringing ashore, self-sufficiency and preparedness. Dried fish and "lutefisk," split salt cod and live fish. Haddock and pollack and rose fish and mackerel.

There are few things that cause as much commotion in parliament as fish. Perhaps milk production or grain subsidies. Both have to do with subsistence and the basic economy. And with votes. Each party has its agriculture and fisheries policy. Even the Single-Tax Party, which wants to stop herring fishing and goat's milk.

The present government, coming from the Conservative Party, put a fresh young man from Finnmark in this ticklish position. For of course he had to be from the most northerly part of the country. That is where the action is. In West, South, and East Norway there are only small cod, anchovies, and some herring. It is northward we must go. With Thor Listau.

But Listau could not be gotten by hook or crook to go along for lutefisk at Lægebret or on Bergen fish days at Holder Danske's on Grand. The minister of fisheries wanted to go home to his mother's meatballs. He lives in Bærum, on friendly terms with Trade Minister Arne Skauge, with whom he carools to the city every morning at 7:25. The ministers of trade and fisheries are *enemis* *enemis*.

Anyway, "Savings '82" is not just Finance Minister Presthus's slogan. When Kåre Willoch sent out invitations to a New Year's party for members of the government, the invitations read "in keeping with the spirit of prudence that characterizes the Conservative government, payment will be required for spouses."

Listau took along his wife Torunn, whom he met when he was stationed with the brigade at Heggelia (Bardufoss). He was elected to the Storting in 1973, where he did not cause much commotion. He was thorough in his committee work (the fisheries committee) and read out his reports without making great waves.

But just look at how the electrician has blossomed out. He frees himself from his notes on TV, and he is marked by outspoken frankness when it comes to selling his opinions. One might think the minister had taken Erling Norvik's charm course.

There was practically a hurricane-like opening for the minister of fisheries at New Year's. But he is holding a steady course in a wave of accusations that there are just as many restrictions and regulations in the fisheries industry since the Conservative Party came into power as before. Listau's comment is clear enough: "Regulations in fisheries are necessary with a view to the future of the industry." But it is obvious that you do not become popular among fishermen by defending such a viewpoint.

The Ministry of Fisheries is located in the Handelsbygning (= Trade Building) on the Drammensvei. It is our smallest ministry, with 70 employees. Nobody will accuse Listau or any of his predecessors of putting on the dog. The furnishings in the minister's office are postwar products worn with steady use. Two small pictures hang on the wall. The best that can be said of those works of art is that the subject matter is the sea and boats. Is it only the minister of culture that gets to provide himself with art treasures from the shops of the National Gallery?

It is 4:00 p.m. A (female) secretary knocks to offer coffee and say good night. The labor laws do not apply to bosses, and if the minister is to clear out the big pile of requests for concessions and industrial refinancing, he must keep on until midnight.

[Question] There should be a couch here so that you could stretch out and take a catnap.

[Answer] I have asked for a sofa on various different-colored papers. And gotten approval for a piece of furniture. I will bring in a slip cover from home.

[Question] And the blue serge suit is hanging ready in the closet?

[Answer] No, I keep it at home and wear it on the job on Friday when we are to have a cabinet meeting at the Castle. But now my wife is insisting that I get a new blue serge suit. The old one is well worn and shiny on the seat.

[Question] The Conservative Party campaigned on a promise that there would be an end to the many unnecessary regulations, and one of the first things you do

is to prohibit catching Norwegian arctic cod in the waters north of the 62nd parallel. The fishermen must feel that as a broken promise, must they not?

[Answer] I did not approach these regulations with a light heart. And I am not a dictator, either.

The fishermen's organizations have played an active part in connection with the discussions of the regulative measures. All points of view were presented before I made the final decision.

[Question] And you did not get a thick ear as a reminder from the fishermen?

[Answer] No, the fishermen are solid types. They are quick to anger. But then it is soon forgotten. And there is no point in arguing about who is at fault in a troublesome situation. In the middle of the 1970's trawling, especially by foreign trawlers, made deep inroads in the stock of fish. The spawning stock today is only a third of what it was 10 years ago.

[Question] You are an electrician, a line that is not closely enough related to fishing to bother about. Have you any grassroots contact with the industry?

[Answer] I was born and brought up in a fish products concern in Svolvær.

As a boy I was with my father on the dock, and often had to help out with sorting and filleting.

Haddock is best for fish products, do not forget that. (He smiles good-naturedly.)

I have fried fish cakes until the smell spread all over the Vestfjordgate. And I have been the youngest hand on a fishing trip. That is drudgery, but for me it glows in a fairytale light. I was in that position when the fishermen could talk about the big catch. There was celebration and rejoicing. But I can also remember dark days. Storms and gales. Time ashore because the weather did not permit going out. Squabbling. Frustration.

[Question] So the young Listau did not let himself be lured to the sea?

[Answer] (He shakes his head and rolls a cigarette with practiced fingers.) No, I left home when I was 15 years old. For Lillehammer, where I started at the Army's vocational school for communications personnel. Four years in school and 3 years' compulsory military service. Before that I had only had elementary school and "continuation" school. But I have had a number of courses over the years, both in Norway and in the United States.

[Question] When did the politician awaken?

[Answer] The party politician became conscious in 1964. We were living in Kirkenes, and I read in the paper that the Young Conservatives were calling a meeting. Before that I had taken a small part in union affairs in the Government Employees' Union. Well, there was talk about how to reorganize a rather tired, sleepy union, and I impulsively took the floor.

[question] And since then you have kept at it?

[Answer] Now, you said that. But I did join the Young Conservatives, and grew up to the Conservative Party, and then there was the board of education, municipal government, and party chairmanship...

(He adjusts the knot of his tie like a lecturer about to step up on the platform. The tie is dark blue with the Norwegian flag and fish, the emblem of the Fresh Fish Exporters.)

On his lapel is the Walrus Order of Alaska, a match to the one Herbjørn Sørebø foisted all Norway with. He has put out and relighted the roll-your-own cigarette four times. The minister of fisheries carries economizing so far that even Milloch would be satisfied.

[question] You even economize on temperament, Listau. You are not a typical example of the North Norwegian disposition, are you?

[Answer] I do not rattle on, talking in season and out of season. But I realize that this can be a drawback in politics. It is better to be loquacious there. I kept a low profile all those years in the Storting. Now I see the necessity of leading out a little more. You must have media appeal. I would rather jump out into the deep water and practice up for a short, pointed speech.

You can make people see the point without using too many words. It is no qualification for a politician to be boring.

[question] You have 2 minutes to tell about our new national fish: capelin and cod (*Gadus poutassou*).

[Answer] Hey, hey. (Listau half rises from his chair and tugs at his waistband. In any case he has not put on weight during his time in the Ministry of Fisheries.) I must get hold of Trond. (He picks up the telephone. Turned toward me.)

Trond is my information consultant. Labor Party man. I inherited him. A splendid fellow.

(Trond, surnamed Wold, turns up with a wall chart "Freshwater Fish in Color." We do not find capelin, but the coalmouth (*Gadus poutassou*) is there, and, for those who are not familiar with it, the coalmouth is a kind of cod that got its name from the fact that the inside of its mouth and gill slits is black.)

But I have eaten capelin. (Triumphant.) it tastes like herring, but it does not smell so strong when you are frying it. Japan is our biggest customer for capelin. They eat it salted and dried, and believe that it contributes to potency. Just like reindeer horn. Hence ground reindeer horn. That has been a little food additive, too.

[question] Capelin roe has also been popularized. You should have had a refrigerator full of samples.

(Listau does not have to answer. The tireless information consultant is back, loaded to the gunwales with information about the capelin. Which is a type of salmon. Elongated and silvery. The male attains 15 to 20 cm. Pelagic shoal fish. Down to 150 meters deep in the daytime. At the surface at night.)

[Question] Vladimir Kamentsev, the Russian minister of fisheries, is coming on an official visit. What have you thought of serving up to get him started?

[Answer] Lutefisk with pea soup and bacon fat. We shall also go to Lofoten, and there we shall have "skrei i mölje," i.e. cod, liver, and roe. We will not skimp on the refreshments. But there will be hard negotiations. It is a matter of the resource situation, larger fishnet meshes for fishing in the Barents Sea, and a bigger capelin quota for Norwegian purse seiners.

[Question] Yes, now you will have to tighten up, for as minister of fisheries you are not satisfied with the fisheries balance between Norway and the EC, either, are you?

[Answer] No, the value of the fish that the EC takes in the Norwegian zone is higher than the catch Norwegian fishermen make in the EC seas. If this takes on serious dimensions, we must resort to countermeasures to cut down the EC's quotas in the Barents Sea. ~~But~~ But in any case we have managed for a certain quantity of Greenland shrimp. They are frozen on the spot and are marvelous. Pour boiling water over them, and in a few minutes they are ready to eat. The white wine should be cold.

...

At the thought of shrimp and white wine it occurs to Listau that his wife should be informed that he will be snowbound at the office. A short, pithy phone call. But at home at Østerås his wife Torunn, who works outdoors, and three young Listaus (21, 19, and 9 years old) are accustomed to wait for father, wait for father...

"But on the week ends we are together," says Listau, a little apologetically. "It even happens sometimes that I get out the guitar, but the children prefer television."

[Question] And on Sundays you go out and spoon for cod?

[Answer] No, we still have that to look forward to. And I have no recipe for fish soup to give you, either. I believe my wife uses left-over soup and freshens it up with a little stock and perhaps fish balls.

...

But shrimp and wine undeniably sounded like more fun to the minister of fisheries just then.

NORWAY

BRIEFS

ARCTIC COD STOCKS ENDANGERED--A survey of Norwegian Arctic cod stocks shows that this cod species is in a precarious situation. Each year after 1975 has produced stocks considerably below the average size, according to the stock survey for 1982 by the Marine Research Institute. An annual quota of 300,000 tons seems to be the maximum these stocks can bear over the next 5 years, research director Arvid Hylen told LOFOTPOSTEN. [Text] [Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 22 Mar 82 p 26] 9336

CSO: 5200/2060

PAPER BACKS LOS CONVENTION, WITH SOME MODIFICATION .

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER IN Swedish 8 Mar 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Power Over World Inheritance"]

[Text] For the most part, the migration of man throughout the world has been a history of the right of the strong--the freedom of powerful nations and civilizations to acquire land, people, and raw materials as best they can.

Only in the most recent phase of human history have the rights of small and weak nations been raised as the international standard, if not yet the law. The primary instrument of this development is the United Nations. The new standard has been made manifest primarily in the former colonial world, with about 100 young nations that have achieved equality in international law.

The epoch-making aspect of the United Nations Law of the Sea Congress, which meets today in New York for a "decisive" session, is its goal of checking colonial ambitions before they become reality. The deep-water ocean bed is the only remaining area of the earth that has not been exploited. In this area, equality among nations will reign from the very beginning and the freedom of strong nations to help themselves will be declared invalid. The seas of the world will be the "common inheritance of humanity."

At least this is the idea behind the international law of the sea convention, the draft of which is almost complete.

Much has been achieved already since law of the sea negotiations began in Caracas in 1974: the expansion of territorial waters from 3 to 12 nautical miles, general regulations for the economic zones of coastal states within 200 nautical miles, passage through international sounds, marine environmental protection, ocean research, etc. Agreement in principle cannot always solve concrete problems, as witnessed by the territorial boundary disputes between Norway and Sweden on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other.

The most serious obstacle at the Law of the Sea Congress has to do with valuable resources on the ocean bed in deep water. Early last year just over 150 participating nations agreed to establish an international "Law of the Sea Council" (in Jamaica) to manage and--through a special "company"--extract

some of the enormous mineral reserves from the ocean bed.

Based on the principle that the wealth of the sea should belong to all humanity, it was decided that the "Law of the Sea Council" would grant licenses and set production ceilings for private, multinational mining companies for one half of each accessible region on the ocean bed. The other half would be exploited by the "company" with the help of taxes and the gratis transfer of technology from the private companies and their home countries.

The overly politicized and complicated procedures of the "Law of the Sea Council" have been severely criticized. The same voting strength for all United Nations members and politically elected delegates in executive organs hardly guarantee rational economic considerations or sound production decisions. The entire inflammatory debate over a New Global Economic Order has weighed heavy over the Law of the Sea Conference and for once it seemed that the wishes of developing countries would triumph.

Thus, the fact that for about 1 year the United States has demanded sweeping changes in the convention has been seen by some to jeopardize 8 years of global negotiations. The United States rejects the draft agreement on a number of crucial points: the distribution of votes in the "Law of the Sea Council," the right of the council to establish production ceilings, gratis transfer of technology to the "company," etc.

In addition the United States, along with France, England, and West Germany, have passed or proposed legislation that would permit "national mining companies" to extract minerals from the ocean bed even before the law of the sea convention takes effect. Strong rumors indicate that these countries, along with Belgium, Holland, and Italy, have been consulting quietly among themselves to establish a "mini-convention" for the ocean bed if the United Nations conference fails to reach an agreement.

If these rumors are true, it is possible that the right of the strong will continue to rule over the seas.

But the extraction of minerals from the ocean bed involves economic and physical risks of previously unknown proportions. Not even the strongest maritime nations can use their warships to guarantee the safety of such multinational production projects against the majority of nations in the world. One may compare this to the vulnerability of the oil supply from the Persian Gulf.

The private, multinational mineral syndicates are aware of this fact. Paradoxically, this insight may provide the key to a compromise with the weaker and geographically handicapped states at the Law of the Sea Conference--if the latter drop some of their less significant demands.

All nations would be best served by a reasonably just, but workable set of regulations for exploiting the ocean bed. Without a legal system acceptable

to all the small nations will lose, but the strong ones probably will not win.

With some modification, the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention is not merely fair and just, it is also realistic and necessary.

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